

IN THE
FRONT ROW

HEADLINES TONIGHT.

His... Tomboy Girls
Musical Comedy.
Photoplays.
By Proxy
Princesses... Boston Blackie's Pal
Nelson... Western Blood

CHARLES RAY, Thomas H. Ince star, is an excellent example of a would-be banker who found fame and fortune in the movies. Had not the Paramount star objected to parental plans, the film fans would be without one of their prime favorites today. While Charles would have been struggling upward with his eyes on a seat in the cashier's cage in a small town bank, young Ray so impressed his father with his histrionic ability on his first appearance upon the stage as an amateur performer that he speedily won consent to continue in his chosen calling. For this reason the public has been able to get a large measure of enjoyment out of such Paramount pictures as "The Son of His Father," "The Hired Man," "The Family Skeleton," "Playing the Game," "The Claws of the Hun" and many others. His latest contribution is "String Beans," in which he appears in one of those roles for which he is justly famous—that of a country and small town youth.

Good Bill at Nelson.

There is plenty of both western atmosphere and love in Western Blood the photoplay which is featured at The Nelson today. Tom Mix, the star, is supported by a capable cast. Lovers of western romances should not fail to see this splendid picture.

A Sunshine comedy, "His Smashing Career," with one of the greatest screen comedians, Billie Ritchie, supported by Gertrude Selby, will be an added attraction.

Close of the Tomboy Girls.

The Reed and Richards Tomboy Girls company which has been one of the most popular Hippodrome attractions of the season, will close its engagement tonight with a concluding performance of "Bad and Henry in Society." The bill is built around two southern darlings who attempt to break into downtown society, and the parts are being played by Mr. Richards and Eddie Brown. I. Gettem, and I. Can Cheatum, portrayed by Sam Lupo and Wharton M. Wilkie, lead these two comedians in a merry chase throughout the performance in a neat and clean way of swindling.

Ed Brown will be seen as a multi-talented maid and the difficulties she leads her two admirers into bring forth many screams.

Ethel Richards shows what kind of a dashing, dancing comedienne she can be in this bill and from her first entrance becomes a favorite.

Late musical numbers led by different members of the company and backed by a melange of pretty singing and dancing choristers add a touch of pep to the show in general.

The Dixie Bill.

In marked contrast with the war play, Over the Top, with its violence and sudden death is By Proxy which The Dixie is offering today. This is a Triangle feature with Roy Stewart and Maude Wayne leading the fun-making. In the story Roy Stewart sets out to woo a pretty girl for his bashful Aleck, employed on Red's ranch. The Chinese cook, Ah Sing, wins all the whores clothes by playing a weird hand at poker. When "Red" returns with the girl, he finds Ah Sing lamenting the loss of his clothing which he had packed on a horse, only to have his horse run away from him. Taking Ah Sing back to the ranch with him and Lindy, "Red" learns that he has brought Aleck the wrong girl and promptly proposes to her just the same. Supporting Roy Stewart are Maude Wayne, Walter Perry, Wilbur Higgins, John Lince and Harry Yamamoto, the superb Japanese comedian. The tenth episode of the great Vitaphone serial "A Fight for Millions," with leading Bill Duncan will be shown.

At The Princess.

Friday's bill is repeated today at The Princess. So is the Hearst-Pathe news film.

FLU WONT COME
BACK SAYS BLUESurgeon General Says
There Will Be Some
Cases All Winter.

1224-1224 Munsey Bldg., Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—In view of serious recurrences of influenza epidemics in many parts of the country Surgeon General Rupert Blue of the United States public health service has issued, through the Washington bureau of the Newspaper Enterprise Association, this reassurance:

"The country need not fear that the influenza epidemic will return. It has come and gone for good."
Dr. Blue explained that sporadic outbreaks of the disease may be expected in various parts of the country, as in all epidemics, and added that, "like the poor, we have influenza always with us."

Dr. Blue doesn't believe there will be an influenza epidemic of such general visitation as that which has exacted a toll of 330,000 civilian and 20,000 soldier and sailor lives in this country.

Influenza cases are still reported from coast to coast.

Some alarmists try to trace a likeness to the pneumonic epidemic which swept China a quarter of a century ago, and to the cases of "black pneumonia" which appeared in Tonopah and Goldfield, Nev., 15 or 20 years ago.

Causes of the great epidemic are obscure. By some, it has been attributed to war diet, by others to war-time overcrowding, camps, etc., others ascribe it to climatic conditions.

With no agreement as to causes, no

STARS WHO WILL TWINKLE
IN COMING PHOTOPLAYS

Charles Ray

specific preventative has yet been authoritatively announced.

"There are little pockets in various places which the epidemic may have skipped," Dr. Blue said, "and in these a recurrence of the disease on a small scale may be expected."

"The coming of cold and inclement weather, bringing colds and bronchitis, in its wake, will also cause the disease to reappear in some places. But it will not recur in its virulent form for some years, perhaps, because it has practically exhausted the number of its potential victims."

"The only places where the epidemic is now raging in full force are Alaska and Porto Rico. The public health service recently dispatched a naval collier to Alaska with physicians, nurses and supplies to fight the disease, and I have cabled to the governor of Porto Rico asking what is needed there."

"The public should remember that influenza is always with us, although not in the form of an epidemic. In 1918, 19,000 deaths were attributed to it in this country."

"There is practically nothing that can be done to prevent its spread, unless it be to build an exceptionally high Chinese wall around the places where it exists. The public health service experts are continuing their study of the disease and experimenting on vaccines and serums, but nothing has yet been found in the way of a preventive. The same rules of precaution that were followed during places where the disease recurs."

Evening Chat

Christmas bells have appeared in the shop windows and the red color of them is especially pretty this cold weather. It is scarcely believable but Christmas is almost here and unless signs count for nothing, very few people have shopped extensively as yet. The stores are not at all crowded and the streets remain almost empty during a part of the day. When one stops to consider the reason we discover that we're living in a peculiar period in the history of the world—sort of a seven year change. We don't do the things we did so heartily even a year ago. We aren't so impetuous by any manner of means—not quite so much like children when the Christmas days come. Perhaps we're going to buy a lot of presents. We don't know our selves what we're going to do. Just now we're waiting for that queer inspiration in the guise of judgment, good or bad, which we learn to wait for—much as we wait for temptation 'round the corner. When somebody else starts the ball to rolling, we'll follow along. If our neighbor next door buys a Victrola, we'll have to have one too. If the stores become suddenly crowded, we'll crowd in with the rest.

We won't miss a bit of the fun, that's sure. I'm wondering how long before the game begins. Rest assured it won't be many days and if you have decided not to buy presents this year, put a little money in the bank and don't use all of it in paying the bills—for just as sure as the surest thing in the world, you're going to buy what the rest of them do—in just a very few days.

Craw for Cranium.

A small girl came home from school yesterday and sat looking very much disgusted with life. Her mother asked what was wrong. "Oh," said the child, "The teacher laughed at me in school!" "Well, go on," urged the mother. The child always waits for that, you know. "The teacher asked where my cranium was and I said, wasn't it in my throat!"

Speaking of school troubles, a number of our children are falling behind in lessons. So much school has been lost so far this term that now that almost half the year has vanished into the past, children find themselves behind in knowledge. I don't think the children are to blame. They have lost the habit of study. Just before the influenza quarantine, school was in session but a few weeks. Before that stretched the long, care-free summer with no lessons at all. I believe there are some children who prefer study to play—but they are few and far between and all serious work has to become a fixed habit before much of real value is accomplished. The children of this year haven't had half a chance to concentrate as yet. Give them steady school days after Christmas until the end of the year and they will do wonders!

The Woman's club yesterday afternoon, spent a delightful hour listening to some exquisite music. After a good program, coffee and delicious cakes were served by pretty girls who just a few months ago were pig-tailed youngsters flying about town. Isn't it almost unbelievable—the change in young people these swiftly passing days? Other folks' little girls who came to spend the day with your little girls are now sedate young ladies with hair done up in side buns and huge rollers down the center. The style isn't exactly what our grandmothers would have liked, but it's quite the proper thing in these up-to-date days.

Speaking of women's clubs, I wondered today when continued conversation plans were formulated indefinitely by the best dressed, best fed women in Fairmont, whether or not any one of these women really knew what conversation meant. Just to determine to go without all that one does not need, in order to keep reconstruction workers abroad in plenty of necessary food, is conservation of a sort; but not a sort rendering self sacrifice necessary. Who is going slightly hungry to help feed somebody else? Hands up, please!

WASHINGTON NEWS
GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—A veterinary from the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture of the Department today for Wyoming county, at the instigation of Senator Howard Sutherland, to investigate an epidemic of an unknown disease which has broken out among the cattle herds there, causing heavy loss. The disease invaded the fine herd of Circuit Court Judge Jas. Dameron, of Williamson, causing the death of 30 head. The disease is one that is unfamiliar to the cattle owners in that section of West Virginia according to reports they made to Senator Sutherland when they appealed to him to him to secure for them the help of government experts.

Motorists report that the National Pike between Washington and Wheeling, W. Va., is in almost perfect condition; that it has been all summer, excepting the short routes through some of the villages, notably West Alexander, east of Wheeling. But that bad spot is undergoing thorough repair. The same cannot be said of the Lincoln Highway from here to Pittsburgh. It was allowed to get into bad condition, and it was not until late in the summer, under federal government pressure, that wholesale reconstruction work was begun on it. The war truck traffic on both thoroughfares was heavy, and the Lincoln Highway did not stand up to it near so well as the National, although traffic on them was about the same in amount and tonnage. Those drivers who are familiar with both routes, prefer the National, not only because it is uniformly better foundation, but the engineering—grades, etc.—they say is incomparable when compared to the Lincoln. In the long, light days of summer, with good machines and good luck motorists drove from Washington to Wheeling, or the reverse way, in a day which it may be stated is "fuging some."

These two roadways proved of incalculable value both to the government and to private business, during the war period. They were favorite freight routes. The thousands of army trucks and lorries for the army abroad were driven from the factories to the seaboard over these two highways. Over the Lincoln, a big Akron tire corporation maintains a fleet of large freight trucks that runs on regular schedule between Akron to Boston. Started first as an experiment, the undertaking has grown and become a permanent paying business. Including the pike through West Alexander, which was up till a few weeks ago in such condition as to be beyond the power of the motor drivers to describe, drivers say that the pike into Wheeling, the worst part between this and that city as it isn't by any means bad, the improvement is made to show just how fine a condition the National from Washington to Wheeling is in.

The highway branch of the Department of Agriculture is starting a campaign to renew road construction, which was largely stopped during the war, under the Federal Road Act. It published letters from the President and Secretary Baker favoring the earliest possible resumption and extension of highway construction. The war, it is claimed, will be proven, has proven the greatest stimulus to good road-making that it has ever had.

Although \$14,550,000 was available for expenditure on the post roads from the Federal Aid Road Act, only \$425,445 was paid from federal funds in the highway construction season of 1918 on all projects. The reason for this, according to the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture, was the steps taken to conserve money, labor,

transportation and materials in highway work during the war, and at the same time to facilitate really essential highway projects.

A pension claim, which was presented through Senator Sutherland's office, has been granted to Andrew Shanks, of Cere, W. Va., who is to receive at the rate of \$15 a month from September 8, 1914, \$30 from June 10, 1915, and \$32 a month from July 6, 1918.

Hon. W. Taylor George, of Phillips, and latterly of Charleston, from which point he has been looking after his large business interests in the southern part of West Virginia, is a visitor in the Capital.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—The railroad man who has ever had to pay a railway fare, an actor who was once a time compelled to dig up for a ticket to a theatre, and so on and infinitum, will be able to comprehend the new sensation, and sympathize with his state of feelings, which was experienced by Congressman Edward Cooper today when he wrote a check for 12 tons of hard coal at six the ton. The purchase was for his new home in Chevy Chase suburb, which he has leased for the winter. It is the first time in his life that he ever bought coal for his personal use, or at retail for any use. He has

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The story of a young wife—wrongly suspected by a jealous husband.

and "Bathing Girls and Boobs" Monday—Geo. M. Cohan, the Yankee Doodle Boy in "Hit the Trail Holiday"—It wouldn't sound so well to say "Hit the Trail Sunday"

It's a Great Evening's Entertainment.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS—(IT WOULD MAKE US SORE, TOO, FRECKLES)—BY BLOSSER.

